

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 30 June 1998
Name of applicant/court: David Henry Lane
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
Title of Publication: A Gentleman's Collection
Other Known Titles: Not Stated
Director: Not Applicable
Producer: Not Applicable
Publisher: Te Papa Press
Authors: Jillian Lloyd, Paul Thompson
Format: Book
Country of Origin: New Zealand
Language: English

.....
..

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable	Running time:
Trailers:		Running time:
		Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

... Please turn over

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

.....
..

Direction to issue a label has been given on Not Applicable

.....
..

SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *A Gentleman's Collection* is classified as:
Unrestricted.

The publication is a short book about the emergence in France around the turn of the century of postcards featuring nude women.

Female nudity is presented in photographic reproductions of postcards which take up approximately two-thirds of the book. However, the photographs of naked and semi-naked women are quite highly stylised and lacking in explicit genital detail. The women are presented in full body shots and appear comfortable and relatively relaxed. None of the women are shown engaging in any type of sexual activity. The photographs are placed within a basic historical and social context by two brief essays. Although there is nothing particularly titillating about the text the complexity of the language suggests that the book is more likely to be intended for adults.

Under s21(1) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 the Classification Office sought the advice of an art expert and an educationalist to assist it in forming an opinion of the publication. Although the two experts consulted differed as to whether they thought the publication had any artistic merit, neither thought that there would be likely injury to the public good in children accessing the book.

In view of the manner in which the publication deals with matters of female nudity and sex, the Classification Office finds that the availability of the book is unlikely to be injurious to the public good.

The Classification Office acknowledges that while the book's availability is not likely to be injurious to the public good, some people may not wish their children to be exposed to the book. Given that the book is not restricted, the Classification Office has no authority to require display conditions on the book. However, sealing the book in a package, or making it not easily accessible to unsupervised children, may be a more appropriate way of distributing or supplying the publication. Such action may avert offence.

OFLC Ref: 9800548